



**Sahtu Land & Water Board**  
**REASONS FOR DECISION**  
Issued Pursuant to Section 72.25 of  
**The Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act**  
and Section 54 of  
**The Waters Act**

**Water Licence Number: S17L8-003 (Type "B")**  
**& Land Use Permit Number S17X-004 (Type "A")**

This is the decision of the Sahtu Land & Water Board with respect to the Applications deemed complete November 15, 2017 for issuance of a Water Licence and Land Use Permit made by:

Transport Canada, Prairie and Northern Region – Environmental Services, Contaminated Sites  
344 Edmonton St.  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3C 0P6

for: the Norman Wells Airport Land Treatment Facility (Landfarm) Project which consists of the following activities:

- 1) Installation of three (3) groundwater monitoring wells required to replace existing monitoring wells that are damaged due to frost-jacking/heaving;
- 2) Treatment of ~2500 m<sup>3</sup> of hydrocarbon contaminated soils, monitoring and decommissioning of the Landfarm;
- 3) Characterization of ~500 m<sup>3</sup> of the soil that is located immediately above and beneath the Landfarm liner that may require off-site disposal during decommissioning; and
- 4) Discharge of ~400m<sup>3</sup> of standing water that has accumulated within the lined Landfarm plus any additional waters retained following freshet.

With respect to this application, notice was given to 29 organizations, 14 of which have representation within the Sahtu Settlement Area; in accordance with Sections 63 & 64 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* and Section 43 of the *Waters Act*. There was no Public Hearing held in association with this application.

**DECISION**

After having been satisfied that the project had been screened pursuant to s.124(1) of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, and that any potential adverse environmental effects were insignificant or mitigable with known technology, and as such the application could proceed through the regulatory process and after reviewing the submission of the Applicant and after reviewing the written comments received by the Board; the Board, having due regard to the facts and circumstances, the merits of the submissions made to it, and to the purpose, scope and intent of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* and the *Waters Act* and Regulations made thereunder has determined that:

Water Licence S17L8-003 and associated Land Use Permit S17X-004 be issued subject to the terms and conditions contained therein.

The Board's reasons for this decision are as follows:

1. No significant or unmitigable public concern has been made known to the Board.
2. The Project was screened by the Board on December 5, 2017 and identified that any environmental impacts can be mitigated with known technologies and that no significant public concern were noted.

3. The use of water and/or deposit of waste proposed by the Applicant is of a nature contemplated by the MVRMA and the *Waters Act*.
4. It is the opinion of the Board that the conditions attached to Licence S17L8-003, pursuant to the *Waters Act*, will significantly reduce the potential environmental impacts resulting from the deposit of waste.
5. The Board has notified the Applicant, through a statement included in the scope of this Licence, that compliance with the term and conditions of this Licence does not absolve the Licensee from responsibility for compliance with the requirements of any other legislation.
6. The operation will likely contribute to the socio-economic well-being and economic development of the region.
7. The conditions set forth in the Licence have been imposed to address the Board's statutory responsibilities and ensure the operation is conducted in a manner which will ensure impacts to surrounding lands and waters is minimized and includes requirement for Surveillance Network Program.
8. It is the opinion of the Board, based on comprehensive review of the information presented by the Applicant and reviewers and in consideration of the terms and conditions included in S17L8-003 that the undertaking is exempt from conformity to the Sahtu Land Use Plan as all activities occur within the municipal boundaries of the Town of Norman Wells.
9. Information contained in Staff Report S17L8-003 S17X-004 (1) relative to environmental impacts and/or public concern.

Water Licence S17L8-003 and Land Use Permit S17X-004 contains provisions that the Board feels necessary to ensure and monitor compliance with the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* and the *Waters Act* and the Regulations made thereunder and to provide appropriate safeguards in respect of the Applicant's use of the waters affected by the Licence.

The Board will provide any referenced material or documents and/or reasons for decision for any specific clause or clauses contained within the application if requested to do so in writing.

SIGNED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of December 2017 on behalf of the Sahtu Land & Water Board.



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Larry Wallace (Chairman)  
SAHTU Land & Water Board